

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus which can use operating content information within a range of usage conditions described in license information, comprising:

a storage ~~means for storing~~ unit configured to store first license information corresponding to the content information;

a receiving ~~means for receiving~~ unit configured to receive second license information corresponding to the content information; and

a license processing ~~means for determining~~ unit configured to determine whether the second license information is of an add attribute or an overwrite attribute, and ~~against the first license information used~~ to combine the first license information and the second license information based on the determination of whether the second license information is of the add attribute or the overwrite attribute,

wherein the content information is operated within a range of license information obtained by combining the first license information and the second license information, and  
the storage unit is configured to store the license information obtained by combining the first license information and the second license information.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the second license information is determined to be [[an]] the overwrite attribute, the license processing ~~means writes~~ unit is configured to write a part or all of the second license information over said first license information.

4. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the second license information is determined to be the add attribute, the license processing means adds unit is configured to add a part or all of the second license information to the first license information.

5. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, by use of key information unique to said information processing apparatus, an electronic signature is appended to the license information obtained by combining the first license information and the second license information by the license processing means unit.

6. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the first license information and said second license information each include right contents for specifying a period limitation and said second license information is determined to be the add attribute, the license processing ~~means combining~~ unit is configured to combine the first license information and the second license information by a rule based on the right contents of the first license information.

7. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the first license information and the second license information each include right contents for specifying a flag and said second license information is determined to be the add attribute, the license processing ~~means combines~~ unit is configured to combine the first license information and the second license information by a rule based on the right contents of the first license information.

8. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the first license information and the second license information each include right contents for specifying a count and the second license information is determined to be the add attribute, the license processing ~~means-combines~~ unit is configured to combine the first license information and the second license information by a rule based on the right contents of the first license information.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing method operating content information within a range of usage conditions described in license information, comprising:  
storing first license information corresponding to the content information;  
receiving second license information corresponding to the content information;  
determining whether said second license information is of an add attribute or an overwrite attribute ~~against the first license information~~; ~~[[and]]~~  
combining a part or all of said second license information with the first license information on the basis of a result of the determining; and  
storing license information obtained by the combining of the first license information and the second license information,

wherein said content information is used within a range of the license information obtained by the combining of the first license information and the second license information.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, when the second license information is determined to be the add attribute in the

determining step, [[a]] the part or all of the second license information is added to the first license information in said combining step.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, when the first license information and the second license information each include right contents for specifying a period limitation and said second license information is determined to be the add attribute in the determining step, the first license information is combined with the second license information by a rule based on the right contents of the first license information in the combining step.

13. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, when the first license information and the second license information each include right contents for specifying a flag and the second license information is determined to be the add attribute in the determining step, the first license information is combined with the second license information by a rule based on the right contents of the first license-  
information in the combining step.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, when the first license information and the second license information each include right contents for specifying a count and the second license information determined to be the add attribute in the determining step, the first license information is combined with the second license information by a rule based on said right contents of the first license information in the combining step.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing system ~~having~~ including a storage ~~means for storing~~ unit configured to store first license information corresponding to the content information, a receiving ~~means for receiving~~ configured to receive second license information corresponding to the content information, and a license processing ~~means for determining~~ unit configured to determine whether the second license information is of an add attribute or an overwrite attribute, ~~and against the first license information used~~ to combine the first license information and the second license information based on the determination of whether the second license information is of the add attribute or the overwrite attribute, the information processing system comprising:

a client ~~which uses~~ configured to use the content information within a range of license information obtained by combining the first license information with the second license information by the license processing ~~means~~ unit, and to store the license information obtained by combining the first license information with the second license information; and

a server ~~which sends~~ configured to send the second license information to the client on demand thereby through a network.

16. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first license information and the second license information have the same data structure.

17. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the license processing unit is configured to determine whether the second license information is of the add attribute or the overwrite attribute based on a usage right type flag included in the second license information.